

REMARKS

Consideration and allowance of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicant provisionally elects with traverse Group I - Subgroup IA - Species IA2, to which instant claims 5, 8-10, 12, 15-16, 22, 24, and new claims 37-80 are directed.

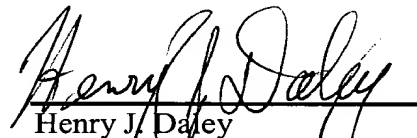
Applicant amended claims 13, 26, and 34 and added new claims 37-80. Applicant also amended the Specification to correct clerical errors. No new matter has been added.

An early and favorable first Action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By:



Henry J. Daley

Reg. No. 42,459

Tel. No.: (202) 861-3067 775-98362

Fax No.: (202) 822-0944

HJD/mjb

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Ninth Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005-3918
(202) 861-3000

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Page 48, delete the whole paragraph starting with line 8 and replace it with the following new paragraph:

As is true of the whole of the variable optical-property element of the present invention, when a [tran-base] tolan-base liquid crystal is used as the liquid crystal, the refractive index is considerably changed and the viscosity becomes low. This reduces the response time of the liquid crystal, which is advantageous. As an example of the [tran-base] tolan-base liquid crystal, the chemical formula of 4-alkylcyclohexyl-4'-alkyltran is shown below.



where R is an alkyl group and R' is an alkoxy group. In order to reduce the response time of the liquid crystal, it is good practice to continuously apply a low voltage to the liquid crystal. It is only necessary that this voltage is almost the same as a phase transition voltage or lower.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

13. (Amended) A variable optical-property element according to claim 11, wherein said [refractive] variable refractive-index substance whose molecules are periodically oriented satisfies the following condition:

$$0.5 \text{ nm} < S < \lambda$$

where S is a period of an orientation of said molecules and λ is a wavelength of light.

26. (Amended) A variable optical-property element according to claim 19, wherein said variable refractive-index substance is a liquid crystal [having] that has a property of [selective reflection is used and a wavelength of light used in said liquid crystal] totally reflecting light with a particular wavelength, and said particular wavelength is outside a range of wavelengths of light used [in said variable refractive-index substance] for said variable optical-property element.

34. (Amended) A variable optical-property element according to claim 20, wherein said variable refractive-index substance is a liquid crystal [having] that has a property of [selective reflection is used and a wavelength of light used in said liquid crystal] totally reflecting light with a particular wavelength, and said particular wavelength is outside a range of wavelengths of light used [in said variable refractive-index substance] for said variable optical-property element.